Bristol Dec: 12 - 1851

My dear Miss Weston -

This a long, but very dull letter to Mr May has consumed my time & energy, I cannot let Mary's letter go without attempting to thank you for your accep: table one of Nov 11th: written, I fear, under much pressure of business. Indeed I did not expect you wd. have found time to answer my Brighton letter then.

But to business - Having Mr Garrison's answer to Mr Grant might prove a cutting one, I thought it well to prepare him first, & take off its edge - if it were to have one. This I did by impressing upon Mr G, that W. L. G. had so many false friends, & actual traitors to the cause to deal with, & those who were sure to use against him Grant's line of argument, that he (W. L. G) was liable to suspect all who thus assailed him as not sincere in the cause - The burthen of my say has ever been with Mr Grant, W. L. G.'s thorough & unselfish devotion to the cause - his unwillingness to admit of any compromising it in others & his readiness if necessary, to die for it himself. After returning from Brighton, I had several pleasant interviews with Mr G, & am satisfied what I said has been useful. Had I known what the article in the Lib wd prove to be I might have perhaps saved myself some trouble -

Your last letter to me contained some apt remarks on Garrison & Mr G - which my daughter copied, & sent ~~them~~ to him, for he has a very exalted idea of you -

{December 26th} The above will afford evidence of the material, with which it is asserted a nameless place is "paved". I was unable to continue my letter ++ to send it by the post on the 12th & on the following morning was confined by indisposition; during much of the time since I have been in bed, & am still a prisoner to No 27.

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Whether my description of ~~an English character~~ a character on this side the water will convey the impression I desire to you, I know not. Mr Grant is a "Scotsman," (that means a great deal with us: ~~is~~ especially as being very courteous & polite, particularly to such as may promise to be useful or agreeable on further acquaintance) he is not a highly educated man, rather below ~~that~~ what an English clergyman generally is, (episcopalian I mean) a moderately strong headed one: plenty of worldly knowledge;— orthodox; a strict Sabbatarian; probably really religious,—certainly not unaware of the advantage of being thought so. He has a large paper to conduct without any direct control from others, & its increase of circulation has risen rapidly since he has had its sole management,—beyond 11.000 daily.

He has always had strong A.S. feeling, which was sharpened by the Americans, in reprinting some works he published of ephemeral interest, having left out all he said against Slavery.—He is a relation of Mrs Napier, & she made me write an A. S. article for the M. Adv. that of Feb 19th of this year. When in London in June I called on Mr G. & was surprised at the cordial welcome he gave me,—indeed at first doubted its sincerity, but in time was re-assured. I believe he was really anxious to know about the Slavery question, & I was glad to set him right about W. L. G. &c &c for there is no daily paper here that troubles itself about Slavery. Mr G's intimacy with me has been ever since most steady: his daily & nightly work month after month, with only a few hours cessation sometimes on a Saturday afternoon, is really terrific & yet the numerous letters he has written to me about Slavery are surprising to me.— He wrote at

my proposal to introduce him to your sisters;—
this was soon effected ~~accomplished~~ ~~[illegible]~~
& things went on well ~~[illegible]~~ till an unlucky contretemps occurred
which you shall hear when your hurry is calmed, for I
am sure it is getting energetic. — Mr. G's dinners, ar-
ticles you have seen, & you have can form/ your own judgment
of his cast of mind. His views are not very enlarged
on the question, & he never will feel in much sympathy
with W.L.G. but he respects him, & I doubt not gives
him credit for a devotion to the A.S. cause which he
himself never felt in any cause, good christian, good
Anti-Slavery man, good Anti Catholic, Pro Repealer,
~~and~~ good any thing, which he (Mr Grant) may be!

The warfare with the Churches on the Slav'y
question is his forte, — tho' he did not attack
the Sabbatites body; indeed he has been a butt in
that contest. To the Church question I expect he
will stick, — perhaps not to the "B. & F. A. S. Socy"
Mrs Massie hinted to us that Grant had been
pulled up by the "Committee" who own the paper
& who have occasional meetings to canvass its
general conduct. The forbearance of G's attacks on
the "B. & F.A.S.S." were amusing & surprising: here
I suspect, he had been advised to show more gentle-
ness; — certainly his last late articles have
made no allusion to the Socy; my article which
we call the "Shields" headed "Amⁿ Slave Dealers"
he put in "from a Correspondent," he has declined
inserting some others, & has not ~~sent~~ published the

"Declaration of Independence" of our "Leader &c. &c.!" Still, I accept what I can get, & am thankful for the smallest favours—

I need not I think, tell you G. is not an able writer, compared at least with the writers in the Times. He dashes at every subject, & treats many erroneously & superficially: the first of the 3 leaders is always his own—so he told me

The paper is not a high class one,—it does not get into the houses of our aristocracy or of the upper middle-classes. It belongs to the "Licenced Victuallers Company" a large body in London, and & connected with the whole genus of Hotels: in almost every such place in London the M. A. is seen. It does some business too in the religious line,—among the orthodox dissenters. Eg. In Bristol probably from 2 to 300 copies of the Times come daily, of the M. A. I suppose not 10 copies

You are hardly perhaps aware that we have but 13 daily papers in the whole country,—all of them in London, the prices of all our papers of any value, are from /4½d to /6d each so you will be able to account for their limited number. The proprietors of the Daily News have already lost £30.000. & a heavy loss is still going on—

"But I must not forget my little episode—

When I first called on Mr. Grant in London in June last, having corresponded with him a little about my Article of Feby 19 when I had taken 400 copies of the M. A. as a bonus for its insertion, he received me

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2nd) with a degree of friendliness which rather sur-
prised me, as at first I suspected him of a little
Scottishness: — further acquaintance, (or my
vanity perhaps) led me to believe him to be sincere.
He certainly wanted to talk about, & to know some-
thing of Am. A.S. — When I told him of your sister's
being in London he expressed surprise, & much grati-
fication at my offer of an introduction. This was
easily effected, Mr. G. was in ecstacies, & soon came out
a leader with the Martyr-age history of Mrs. C. &c!
When I suggested to G. that I doubted if she would
like this personal history with all its embellish-
ments a la Martineau, being brought before the
London public, he looked amazed, evidently thinking
he had done the kindest of acts to Mrs Chapman!
However, things went on favorably; & Mr G. was very
polite to the "Devonshire St party" sending them the
Advertiser, lending books, procuring a box at the
Opera &c & I concluded "eternal friendship" had
been reciprocally sworn. But the course of "true love"
is not always smooth. Soon after my return home
Mr G. wrote to me & "presumed" Mrs. C. &c had left
London for he had ceased to have any acknowledgment
of papers sent, books lent &c, &c at the same time
however saying that hardly any notice had been taken
by them of various civilities he had endeavoured to
show them. All I could do at first was to assure
him that I knew Mrs C. really highly appreciated
his attentions, & I was certain no want of kind
& proper feeling on her part was the cause, as in

Ex=cuse a little repetition.

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repeated conversations, she had expressed her obligation — I spoke of the trouble the family were in about your brother's illness, & that they had declined some invitation to a large party, their attendance at which had been erroneously stated in the papers. Mr G. replied that the Opera tickets were used tho' not even acknowledged. &c &c. — I could not allow a breach to occur between your sisters & our new A. S. ally upon such trifles; so said a great deal to Mr G. & got them to write as soon as possible, & I believe at length Mr G. was appeased. Perhaps he was a little exigeant; but ~~the Lond~~ the Editor of a London Daily paper is a great man, & with considerable patronage in some respects. they have free admissions to public places &c &c. and are much bowed to, & petted by "country cousins."

When your family were with us, & we talked over the matter a little: but I found Miss Weston so much vexed about it that I hardly said all I wished, to prevent her from the possible supposition that I had made more of the matter than there was any occasion for; I wanted her to read Mr Grant's letters to me to prove what he had felt, but she begged I would not press it. On talking about the affair with Emma & Lizzie, the latter coolly said she should not think of returning thanks for an Opera box & tickets (the value probably not less than 5 Guineas) & Emma maintained the distress they were in

about your brother ought to have protected them
from any unfavourable construction of their omissions
by Mr G. this argument wd have weight
had they not profited by his politeness. The
truth was, they at least so it appeared to me, they
were in a great whirl in London, with engagements
attentions &c, &c, and were not methodical in
their arrangements. They seemed to us to need
the help, in these matters, of some English friend: it
was not to be expected they should all at once fall
into the routine of our habits. I never thought
them able to appreciate & profit by the advantages
of our penny postage system. There are 10 daily
deliveries in London of local correspondence -
You may write & get an answer, & write again in
one day to any part in & near London ÷ once Mr Grant
kindly sent Mary & me 2 Opera tickets one day
while we were in London; we could not use them our-
selves, but being worth 2£ were a great boon to some
musical friends to whom I sent them; but by
the next post I had sent Mr G. a note of thanks
for his attention. We always thought Miss W.
had hard work in undertaking the arrangements
of the party. She appeared to be the Executive,
Mrs. Chapman as a sort of President of the Council
or "Chamber Counsel": the younger ones seemed
more the Representatives of their own fancies
than Members of a deliberative Cabinet, or as
"ce Monsieur" (so termed by Mrs Chapman) has it,
of a "Consultative Committee". – Whom I

was last in London drinking tea at Mr. Grant's, after
he was gone to his office, I asked Miss G. about this
unfortunate coolness: she said her father was
painfully annoyed at it, that he had aimed to
pay Mrs. L. & her family every attention, but
the unnoticed reception of his efforts did seem
to them like intentional rudeness. — She
was however, & assured me her father was, quite
satisfied with subsequent explanations. —

Now I am afraid, had this been a difference
between friends of the ordinary kind, my bene-
volence wd. not have induced me to interfere
in the matter, as it is an office I never volunteer
to undertake: but I ~~could~~ had too much interest
in the A. S. cause to allow, if by any trouble I could
avert it, the estrangement of Mr. Grant from
your sisters upon a trifling matter. That they
were remiss in acknowledging Mr. G's civilities
I have no doubt: but I knew their hearts so well
that I felt it in no degree of risk but in truth in
the strongest assertion of their having been guilty
of no intentional want of courtesy. —

~~[illegible]~~ Had you not asked for it, you wd never have
heard this long story from me; I tell it regardless of
any deductions you may make from it: you will
perhaps think I attach more importance to Mr.
Grant than he is worth. You had better not
refer to this silly affair to the Parisians until
you all meet in Boston, — & then it may be forgot

✣ (over leaf) — Once they sent by a private hand a note of in-
vitation to tea the same evening — the party received
the invitation on the next day. —

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3d/ January 2nd 1852.

There is now some prospect, I hope, of my getting this letter off my hands — we have sent despatches to day by a private hand to Paris. On Monday we had letters from Mrs C. & Miss Weston: it makes one's heart ache to think of the condition of France, & of the horrid scenes lately enacted, & in some or other form continued at Paris! They write most guardedly, not signing their names & requiring of us the same precaution. We presume they have sheltered some proscribed person. We cannot but feel anxious about their being in France at this time. Our concern & regret at their going thither at all after having been there for 3 winters, are not diminished by the recent enormities committed by the unprincipled President upon that demoralized Nation.

Mrs. Chapman's beautiful Medallion which she kindly gave us, is framed & glazed, & mounted upon the sideboard in our dining room.

I will take an early opportunity of sending to some one of our Boston friends a copy of Russell Carpenter's "Letters on Am. ~~of~~ Slavery" reprinted from the "Chn. Reformer" as soon as I can find an oppt. after they are out. I hope they will undergo some revision there & here. I will ask Mr. Webb to do something.

As Mary has a volume ready for you, & is disposed to write more, I will leave for her the rest of my paper, & trusting she will supply any ~~the~~ expressions of kindness & regard in which my letter is deficient, I will only further assure you the cordial esteem & respect of

Your sincere friend
J. B. Estlin.

Will you offer my warm regards to Mr Garrison, Mrs May, Mr Quincy & Mr W. Phillips –

The month's delay in the transmission of my promised "volume" dear Annie, which my Father's want of health & time for completing its companion has caused, must have deprived it of the very small ~~but it ever had an~~ chance it ever had of gaining ~~a your patience~~ a reading, & had my Father given me as many days as he has hours' notice that his own was ~~completed~~ at last ready for posting, you should have had a substitute with at least the recommendation of freshness. However rather than be guilty of "breach of promise" I consign to you the task of burning the unfinished manuscript instead of undertaking it myself, & can just squeeze in here my very best thanks for your last which came via Dublin. Its renewed assurance of your brother's improved health gave us the liveliest joy, you & yours blend in all our fond, & hopeful, as well as anxious wishes for the opening year; & the memory of all the added happiness that has come to us from this same source are among our most grateful retrospects in that from which we have just parted. You & your fellow-laborers have had many an affectionate mention in Bristol during the Bazaar week; under all your temporary difficulties & disadvantages we are prepared to learn that the pecuniary gain is small this year, but the very causes that make it so [illegible]

in other ways help on your struggles. We are still in
the midst of a hard contest. Mr Scoble has attacked
Mr Ed. Mathews, in a letter to the M. Advertiser, with
the view of destroying confidence in him which is
a necessary preliminary to putting forth his Dawn
Scheme wh. we expect to see in the next "Reporter". The
attack has been answered in the M. Advr. by E. Mathews
& there was clearly nothing tangible in the pretended
misstatement about his application to speak in Exeter
Hall, seeing that E. M. had at the time corrected the
slight inaccuracy Scoble takes hold of. But as the
latter can send ~~[illegible]~~ about his accusation in the Reporter
without letting the reply be seen, it will serve his
purpose, & no doubt he concocted his letter with
his ally L. Tappan, while "the Am. & Foreign A. S. Socy"
was taking its journey, (as recorded by Mr Gurney in
his printed article, which delights us & our pupils).
We are writing to as many people as we can to open their po
eyes to Scoble's crooked policy in regard to Ed. Mathews &
Dawn, & do not despair of victory, tho' it is uphill
work, needing unremitting devotion to it. This is all the
Anti-slavery you shall be troubled with. I wanted to gossip
over yrs last, but space is dwindling. Nevertheless I must
point to the new organization spirit you betray ~~any failings of~~ in writing
a letter glaringly full of vanity, & ending with disclaiming
the frailty (which you must have been conscious of mani-
festing,) & having on a former occasion acknowledged it,
while throughout classing every other sin to which you allude, among those
you are free from, tho' maintaining that the catalogue of
yr failings is very long! I fear you will find it as difficult
to extricate yourself from this labyrinth of inconsistency
as "the Am. & For. Socy" does to explain why he took the money.
If there were room I shd tell you a piece of criticism of my Father's
in reference to "his Friend" who he fears is sadly given to "domineering
over Mr Garrison." But as you never saw him or heard him talk
the description of the conversation would not convey much
impression. Well you must come to Park St. (unexpectedly if

you prefer it) but come, & Mr Webb has written to say that
whenever you drop in he will drop in very soon after, & tho'
if you should not strike us as so very beautiful as you have
labored to make us imagine you, we will try to tolerate you &
being remarkably unsusceptible of any impressions from the
source we may find less difficulty to put it up with its absence than
you with in your new acquaintance. I am afraid if we are ever to meet
~~it must be~~ altogether in this world it must be by your coming to us
for tho' there is nothing I sh'd like half so well as a twelvemonth's vi

America there are "no conceivable circumstances" that wo
justify my Father's attempting a voyage there which would in
all probability be fatal before he reached your shores, nor are there
any within the compass of my imagination to justify my le
him, so you see we are reduced to a narrow alternative. My
Aunt has just come to Bristol for a few days as she could
not spend Christmas in Paris & she sends a great deal of lo
your dear sisters, there are morning, noon, & night, in our hearts tho'
lips breathe a wish we had them safe here in bodily presence, tho' i

We will discuss Kossuth, & Woman's Rights on the first opportunity.

A. W. Weston,
Weymouth,
nr Boston,
Mass.

Mr & Miss Estlin
Dec. 12 - 26 - Jan 2. 52

ONE SHILLING POSTAGE
PAID 24 JAN
21 CENTS
BRISTOL JA 2 1852 H
JA 1852

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